Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A user interface to facilitate at least one of analysis and planning of business operations, comprising:

a first user interface component for selecting operating parameters for at least one of a budgeting and forecasting process, the selected operating parameters including at least one account of a plurality of defined accounts and a time period associated with the at process;
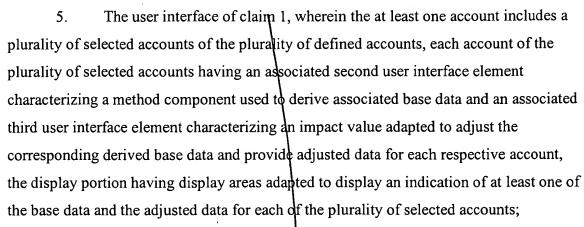
a second user interface element characterizing a method component used to derive base data for the at least one account;

a third user interface element characterizing an impact value adapted to adjust the base data to provide adjusted data for the at least one account; and

a display portion having display areas adapted to display an indication of at least one of the base data and the adjusted data for the at least one account;

wherein the second and third user interface elements are selectable to effect a change in the respective method component and impact value associated with the at least one account.

2.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the second interface element, upon being selected, is adapted to display a list of available methods associated with the at least one account from which another method component is selectable.

3.   The user interface of claim 2, wherein the third user interface element, upon being selected, is adapted to display a list of active impact components associated with the at least one account, each of the impact components being selectable to modify attributes associated with each respective impact component.

4.   The user interface of claim 3, wherein the impact value for the at least one account is an aggregate of impact values from each of the active impact components.

5.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the at least one account includes a plurality of selected accounts of the plurality of defined accounts, each account of the plurality of selected accounts having an associated second user interface element characterizing a method component used to derive associated base data and an associated third user interface element characterizing an impact value adapted to adjust the corresponding derived base data and provide adjusted data for each respective account, the display portion having display areas adapted to display an indication of at least one of the base data and the adjusted data for each of the plurality of selected accounts;
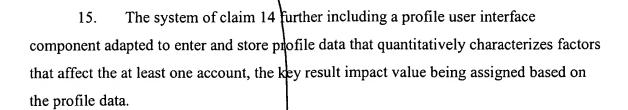
wherein each of the second and third user interface elements are selectable to effect a change in the respective method component and impact value associated with an associated one of the plurality of selected accounts.

6.   The user interface of claim 5 further including a fourth user interface component adapted to, upon activation, concurrently display the adjusted data and corresponding data for each of the plurality of selected accounts for a different period of time from that shown in the display areas based on account data stored in connection with each of the plurality of selected accounts.

7.   The user interface of claim 1 further including a fourth user interface component adapted to, upon activation, concurrently display the adjusted data and corresponding data for the at least one account for a different period of time from that shown in the display area based on account data stored for the at least one account.

8.   The user interface of claim 7, wherein the fourth user interface component further is adapted to display a daily comparison of the adjusted data and the corresponding data for the at least one account.

9.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein a plurality of methods are associated with the at least one account, the second user interface element being adapted to assign a selected method of the plurality of methods to the at least one account, the

selected method being applied to stored data for the plurality of accounts to derive the base data for the at least one account.

10.   The user interface of claim 9 further including a reference method user interface element that characterizes a user-selectable reference method associated with the at least one account, the reference method being applied to the stored data to derive reference data for the at least one account, the display portion further displaying an indication of the reference data for comparison with the other displayed data.

11.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the third user interface element further characterizes key result area data associated with the at least one account, the key result area data including a key result area impact value indicative of a desired result for the at least one account, the key result impact value corresponding to at least part of the impact value.

12.   The user interface of claim 11, wherein the third user interface element further characterizes action plan data associated with the at least one account, the action plan data including an action plan impact value indicative of a cost factor associated with achieving an objective.

13.   The user interface of claim 12, wherein the objective corresponds to at least part of the desired result of the key result area data and the cost associated with achieving the objective corresponds to at least part of the cost associated with achieving the desired result.

14.   The user interface of claim 12, wherein the third user interface element further characterizes calendar attribute data associated with the at least one account, the calendar attribute data including an attribute impact value for the at least one account in connection with a selected day in a corresponding time period, the attribute impact value corresponding to at least part of the impact value, whereby the impact value is an aggregate of values.

15.   The system of claim 14 further including a profile user interface component adapted to enter and store profile data that quantitatively characterizes factors that affect the at least one account, the key result impact value being assigned based on the profile data.

16.   The user interface of claim 12, further including a fourth user interface element that characterizes a selectable manual impact value associated with the at least one account, the fourth user interface element being associated with a method component adapted to generate key result area data having another key result impact value corresponding to the manual impact value, the manual impact value corresponding to at least part of the impact value.

17.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the third user interface element further characterizes action plan data associated with the at least one account, the action plan data including an action plan impact value indicative of a cost factor associated with achieving an objective.

18.   The user interface of claim 17, wherein the action plan data further includes an associated method that derives the action plan impact value as a function of stored data.

19.   The user interface of claim 18, further including a fourth user interface component associated with the third user interface element for assigning the objective of the action plan data to an assignee.

20.   The user interface of claim 19, wherein the fourth user interface element further is adapted to assign a due date by which the assignee is to complete the objective associated with the action plan.

21.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the third user interface element is operatively associated with a key result area component that characterizes a desired result for the at least one account, the key result area component providing data indicative of a key result impact value for the at least one account, the third user interface element being further associated with an action plan component that characterizes a objective for another account of the plurality of accounts, the action plan component including data indicative an action plan impact value for the at least one account that identifies a cost factor associated with achieving the objective.

22.   A method to facilitate at least one of budgeting, planning, analysis and forecasting, the method comprising the steps of:

storing account data indicative of account activities for a plurality of accounts over an account time period;

defining impact data having an impact value for at least one account of the plurality of accounts;

generating base data for each selected account of the plurality of accounts, each selected account including an associated method that is applied to the stored account data to determine the base data; and

determining a value of adjusted data as a function of the impact data and the base data.

23.   The method of claim 22, wherein the impact data includes key result area data having a definable key result area impact value indicative of a desired result for the at least one account, the defined impact value for the at least one account including the key result area impact value.

24.   The method of claim 23, further including selectively modifying the key result area data which, in turn, modifies the defined impact value.

25.   The method of claim 23, wherein the key result data further includes an associated method component that is applied to at least one of the stored account data and the base data to derive the key result area impact value.

26.   The method of claim 23, wherein the impact data further includes action plan data having an action plan impact value for the at least one account indicative of a cost associated achieving an objective for at least a second of the plurality of accounts the adjusted budget data, the defined impact value for the at least one account including the action plan impact value.

27.   The method of claim 26, further including selectively modifying at least one of the key result area data and the action plan data, which, in turn, modifies the defined impact value according to the step of selectively modifying.

28.   The method of claim 26, wherein the adjusted data defines a first budget, the method further including the steps of modifying at least one of the key result area data and the action plan data and generating a second adjusted budget based on the modified user interface element.

29.   The method of claim 22, wherein the impact data includes action plan data having an action plan impact value for the at least one account indicative of a cost associated achieving an objective for at least a second account of the plurality of accounts, the defined impact value for the at least one account including the action plan impact value.

30.   The method of claim 29, wherein the action plan data further includes an associated method that is applied to at least one of the stored account data and the base data to derive the action plan impact value.

31. The method of claim 22 further including the steps of defining calendar data having a calendar time period and a starting day and aligning a plurality of time periods in the stored account data relative to the starting day.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of aligning further includes the steps of locating a day in each of a plurality of time periods associated with stored account data that matches the starting day of the calendar data; and

aligning each of the plurality of time periods of the stored account data so that each of the plurality of time periods has a starting day that matches the starting day of the calendar data, whereby each day associated with each of the plurality of time periods is aligned with a corresponding day of the calendar time period.

33. The method of claim 31 further including the steps of designating the at least one account for a selected event and determining an attribute impact value for the designated account, the attribute impact value being determined as a function of the stored account data for the designated account for a corresponding event in at least one other year in the stored account data, the defined impact value for the at least one account including the attribute impact value.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of generating base data further includes computing daily base data for each of the selected accounts during the calendar time period based on application of the associated method for each of the selected accounts to the stored account data for each like day in the plurality of time periods.

35. The method of claim 22, wherein the adjusted data defines a first budget, the method further including the steps of modifying a displayed user interface element associated with the impact data and generating a second adjusted budget in response to the step of modifying.

36. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 35.

37.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 22.

38.   The method of claim 22 further including selecting a calendar orientation that defines incremental intervals of the calendar time period, the impact value and base data being determined for the at least one account for each incremental interval of the calendar time period.

39.   A system to facilitate at least one of budgeting, planning, analysis and forecasting, comprising:

means for storing account data indicative of account activities for a plurality of accounts over an account time period;

means for defining impact data having an impact value for at least one account of the plurality of accounts;

means for generating base data for selected accounts of the plurality of accounts, each of the selected accounts including an associated method, the base data being determined for each of the selected accounts based on application of the associated method to the stored account data; and

means for displaying a value of adjusted data as a function of the impact data and the base data.

40.   The system of claim 39 further including means for selectively modifying at least one of the method and the impact data, the adjusted data varying based on the modifying means.